

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 773

By Crawford

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sergeant Mathew Scott Cousins of the Bristol Tennessee Police Department.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those persons who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Mathew Scott Cousins of the Bristol Tennessee Police Department is one such estimable individual, who has devoted his life to the preservation of law and order and the protection of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Cousins serves the police department in a number of capacities, including service as a field training officer, a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team member, and a K-9 handler, in which position he is trained in explosives detection and patrol tactics. He previously served as a member of the Drug Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Mathew Cousins also encourages public safety through his work as a National Rifle Association firearms trainer; and

WHEREAS, Mathew Cousins is always willing to serve above and beyond the call of duty. One of many such notable instances during his stalwart career occurred in July 2016, when he played a vital role in stopping a highway gunman, whose rampage took the life of a mother; and

WHEREAS, had it not been for the valiant efforts of Sergeant Cousins and his fellow officers, the outcome could have been far more horrendous; and

WHEREAS, along with his dedicated service as a police officer, Mathew Cousins also served in the United States Army and the Tennessee Army National Guard from 1987 through

2010. With an unwavering sense of duty and patriotism, he gallantly served while deployed in Honduras, Egypt, and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, for his sterling military service, Mathew Cousins received the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, six Army Achievement Medals, the Non-Commissioned Officers Education Service (NCOES) Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, and the Air Assault Badge; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his military awards and accolades, Sergeant Cousins was named the 2017 Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police Officer of the Year and the 2017 National Rifle Association Officer of the Year. He also received the 2012 Officer Mark Vance Award, which is given to the top officer in Sullivan County for domestic violence investigations, and an award for DUI and traffic enforcement through the Governor's Highway Safety Office; and;

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mathew Cousins is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of twenty-three years, Shaylene. Together, they have two children, Bethany and Robert; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Cousins exemplifies the values of hard work, compassion, and devotion to community that are characteristic of a diligent officer of the law and a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mathew Cousins has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, his fellow officers, and a grateful public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Sergeant Mathew Scott Cousins of the Bristol Tennessee Police Department, salute his dedicated service to the preservation of law and order, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.